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Notes on Philippine birds, 4. Some records of migrant visitors

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Two Danish expeditions have brought home birds from the Philippines. The Danish Philippine Expedition or Galathea Expedition visited northern and central Mindanao from August 1951 to March 1952. Some 1700 bird skins were collected, and served as a basis for faunistic and systematic notes on several resident species (Salomonsen 1952, 1953).

The Noona Dan Expedition explored large parts of the Indo-Malayan area, and visited Palawan, the Sulus and Mindanao from July to December 1961. About 650 birds were collected there, and systematic remarks on some Palawan residents were given by Salomonsen (1961, 1962, 1977). No publications from these expeditions, however, commented upon migrant visitors (if we exclude Ferdinand's 1962 popular narrative). Notwithstanding duPont's (1971) sweeping statements of widespread occurrence in the Philippines, the published data on migrant visitors are in fact rather slim. It therefore appears relevant to record some migrant birds from these Danish collections.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*. Known to winter locally in the Philippines south to Basilan near Mindanao, but not known from Mindanao itself (McGregor 1909, duPont & Rabor 1973). Two adult females (broad oviducts, large ovaries) were taken 17 February 1952 at Jabonga, Lake Mainit, Agusan, on the northern end of Mindanao.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*. Breeds (nominate subspecies) and winters (*curonicus*) in most parts of the Philippines. The species has been ringed in considerable numbers near the Verde Island Passage and in Palawan (McClure & Leelavit 1972). However, a female *curonicus* in its first winter plumage, taken 12 October 1961 in Dalawan Bay on Balabac, further to the southwest, is the first record of the species from this island.

TEREK SANDPIPER *Tringa cinerea*. Winters all over the Indo-Australian area, and is known from some Philippine islands (McGregor 1909, McClure & Leelavit 1972, Baud 1978). One second-year male, taken 20 January 1952 at Tubay, Cabadbaran, Agusan, is the first record from Mindanao.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*. An uncommon migrant visitor to the area, although a flock of more than 500 is known from the Moluccas (McKean & Estberg 1980). There are records from several Philippine islands

(McGregor 1909, 1918, Rabor 1952, Temme 1973, Baud 1978, duPont & Rabor 1973), but one specimen in full postjuvenile moult, taken 4 October 1961 in Dalawan Bay, is the first record from Balabac.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo longipennis*. May occur all through the Indo-Malayan Archipelago but is known from rather few places in the Philippines (McGregor 1909, 1921, Hachisuka 1941, McClure & Leelavit 1972). Three males and one female collected 20 January 1952 at Tubay, Cabadbaran, Agusan, represent the second record from Mindanao. Two first-year birds taken 25 November on Bongao Island, Tawitawi, represent the first record from the Sulus.

ORIENTAL CUCKOO *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi*. A widespread visitor all over the Indo-Australian area, and recorded from several Philippine islands. One juvenile bird (lacking white nape spot, but showing distinct, white edges to all remiges) taken 21 November 1961 in Lapid Lapid, appears to represent the first record from the Sulus.

LANCEOLATED WARBLER *Locustella lanceolata*. Appears in large numbers in suitable habitats on Luzon (McClure & Leelavit 1972), and is known also from Bohol, Calayan and Palawan (McGregor 1909, Manuel & Gilliard 1952, Rand & Rabor 1960). One male was taken 16 November 1951 in grassland at Kaotoan, Katanglad Volcano (1250 m) near Bukidnon on Mindanao. Judging from its minute testes and the correspondence of growth bars on all rectrices, it is juvenile, but the fresh body plumage is adult-like and clearly different from that of a Siberian fledgling also examined. This suggests a post-juvenile moult, as reported in 2 congeneric species (Ginn & Melville 1983).

GREY-SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa griseisticta*. Known from most parts of the Philippines. However, one male taken 12 October 1961 in Indalawan Bay, Balabac, represents the first record from this island. Judging from the fresh plumage and pale edges to the wing-coverts it may be a juvenile.

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The West African mainland forest dwelling population of *Batis*; a new species

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During the course of a study of the evolutionary history of the populations of the flycatcher genus *Batis*, consideration was given to the populations of West Africa and the island of Fernando Po, currently known as *Batis poensis* Alexander. It became apparent that the existence on Fernando Po of forest dwelling populations of *Batis* which were indistinguishable at the subspecific level from those in the forests of West Africa was anomalous, considering the changes which had occurred in other populations of forest-dwelling *Batis* in Africa which had been isolated from one another for much the same period of time that the island of Fernando Po has been separated from mainland Africa, namely about 10,000 years. Although Fernando Po has only one species endemic to the island, namely *Speirops brunnea*, approximately one quarter of the species on the island are considered to differ subspecifically from the populations of the mainland. There has been no suggestion in the literature that the 2 bodies of populations of *Batis poensis*, on Fernando Po and mainland Africa, were anything other than identical, which is not surprising considering the paucity of collected material and the even greater paucity of recently collected, neatly prepared, material. Most of the material existing in museums was collected in the first 2-3 decades of this century and is of poor quality, and not suitable for discerning colouration differences.

However, as a result of an expedition to West Africa and Fernando Po in 1963, Professor Eisentraut of the Zoologisches Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn collected 11 specimens of *B. poensis* from Fernando Po. All are neatly prepared specimens. In 1977 Alec Forbes-Watson collected some equally excellent specimens of *B. poensis* at Mt. Nimba, Liberia, which are now lodged in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) (BMNH). Through the kind offices of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, I was able to assemble the Bonn and British Museum specimens simultaneously. Although for some time I had been aware of size differences